Mechanism to monitor the execution of contracts etc.

7049. DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state;

(a) whether there is any mechanism to monitor the actions of the officers who are authorised to execute contracts and assurances of property on behalf of thet President under Article 299 (1) of the Constitution of India;

(b) if so, what is the nature of this machanism;

(c) whether any irregularities or defaults were noticed during the last three years; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ; (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Does not arise.

Criminalization of electoral politics'

7050. SHRI G. G. SWELL; Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that electoral politics is significantly criminalised;

(b) if so, what are the corrective measures recommended so far by various official and semi-official" committees and how the proposed reforms are going to tackle these problems;

(c) whether it is a fact that political parties largely nominate candidates on the basis of the caste and communal composition of the constituencies;

(d) if so, why not work out electoral constituencies where candidates attribu tes like caste and community attached tot individual would not count and mainly party and its performance would be in focus;

(e) if so, whether this process strengthens casteism and communalism; and

(f) whether it is also a fact that successive elections have weakened national integration and boosted casteism and communalism?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) No, Sir.

(b) However, making certain prac tices as electoral offences, enhancing punishment for certain existing electoral offences, amplification of the offence of booth capturing and enhancing punish ment therefor, use of electronic voting machines, deletion of death of a candi date as a ground for countermanding of elections, introduction of photo identity cards reduction in campaign period, etc., are some of the measures recommended to prevent malpractices and criminalisa-tion in the electoral process.

(c) The Government has no information in this regard.

(d) Does not arise. Moreover, it may not be feasible to work out such elecot-ral constituencies.

(e) Does not arise.

(f) No Sir.

Auditing of books under Companies Act, 1956

7051. PROF. VIJAY KUMAR MAL-HOTRA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have issued Cost Accounting Records (Cosmetics and Toiletries) Rules, 1993 and the Cost Accounting Records (Soap and Deter gents) Rules, 1993;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether any order for audit of the books of accounts have been issued by Government under the Companies Act, 1956;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the findings/outcome of these audits on the cost/price study?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ); (a) Yes Sir.

(b) The Cost Accounting Records Cosmetics and Toiletries) Rules, 1993 and the Cost Accounting Records (Soaps and Detergents) Rules, 1993 were notified in the Official Gazette of India vide G.S.R. No. 678 (E), dated 29th October, 1993 and G.S.R. No. 677(E) dated 29th October, 1993 respectively. These rules are applicable to companies engaged in the production/processing or manufacture of items of products like toothpaste, toothpowder, shaving creams, hair oils, shampoos, soaps, detergents etc., as defined in rule two of the said rules.

(c) Every company to which the Cost Accounitng Records (Cosmetics and Toiletries) Rules, 1993 and the Cost Accounting Records (Soaps and Detergents) Rules, 1993 aplly has to maintain proper cost books of accounts in respect of its financial yea commencing on or after the commendement of these rules i.e. 29.10.1993 which is a prerequisite for ordering cost audit under section 233B of the Companies Act, 1956. Hence, orders for cost audit of these books of accounts have not been issued during 1993-94.

(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Additional High Court Benches

7052 SHRI YERRA NARAYANASWAMY: Wilt the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a proposal to set up a Commission to study demands for setting up additional Benches of High Courts in different States

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) details of demands under considerraikm to set up additional Ranches of High Courts: and

(d) the details of demands received from Andhra Pradesh?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) to (c) There is no proposal to set up a Commission to study the demands for setting up additional Benches of High Courts in different States. The Jaswant Singh Commission had studied the demands for establishment of Benches of Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts and had given its specific recommendation. The *Com* mission had also studied the general question of having Benches of High Courts at places away from their principal seats and had given its recommendations on the broad principles and criteria to be followed in assessing the expediency and desirability of setting up a Bench of the High Court away from the principal seat and the factors to be kept in view in selecting the venue of the said Bench. The Report which was presented to the Government by the Commission on 30.4.1985 was placed in the Parliament Library on 15.10.86 and was laid on the Table of the Rajya Sabha on 20.4.1987.

The recommendations of the Jaswant Singh Commission regarding Allahabad, Madhya Pradesh and Madras High Courts were referred to the concerned State Governments in October, 1986 for their views and comments, in consultation with the Chief Justices of the respective High Courts. General recommendations of the Commission were sent to the Chief Justices of the High Courts and the State Governments on 11.9.1987 for information and guidance.

At present, no complete proposal from any State Government for establishing a High Court Bench is under consideration of the Central Government.

(d) Representations have been received from time to time for establishing Benches of the Andhra Pradesh High *C*ourt at different places, viz. Vijayawada-Guntur, Vishakhapatnam, Rayalaseema etc.